The Rez Sisters Worksheet

Instead of the usual Worksheet for the other play you have read this worksheet requires that you answer the following questions.

1. Reflect on the importance of the character (spirit?) not seen by all the characters but seen by only one or a few of the characters and discuss that character’s importance to the dramatic action and the development of the plot.

Annie is quite different from all the characters because of her aspirations and goals concerning the bingo game in Toronto. While the other characters doubt the possibility of the bingo even happening, Annie has an entire plan of what she will do when she wins it. Any seems to be the only character who aspires for a life that is greater than what they have on the reservation, which is exemplified by her desire to “listen to live bands like I drink beer quietly- not noisy and crazy like here.” The other women seem to be content with the dismal life of the reservation, which is evidenced by when they criticize Veronique for being to scared to go to big Joey’s.

2. Compare the aspirations and socio-economic level of the characters in this play with those in Wedding Band, Queen's Garden, and Real Women.

I would say that the socio economic level of the characters in *Rez Sisters* most closely resembles that of the women in *Real Women Have Curves*. In Rez sisters, the women are so destitute that they look forward to bingo as one of the main sources of income. In Real Women Have Curves, they are barely able to scrape by by making dresses in a very small room. Wedding Band is set during a different time period, but relatively the work that Herman is able to provide surpasses the income of the women in the other two stories. I find it difficult to compare Queen’s Garden to the other three stories because of the different focus (I viewed queens garden as more of a story of romance and class issues, and less in terms of socioeconomic status).

3. Compare the role of women and the depiction of men in this play with that in Real Women Have Curves

I found the role of women to be very similar in the plays. In both plays, there is a very strong sense of sisterhood (except for the animosity of all the characters toward Veronique). However, the role of men is portrayed much more negatively in *Rez Sisters* than it is in real women have curves. For example, Big Joey is so abusive to Emily Dictionary, that she is forced to abandon her children. The men in the play also display a large amount of alcoholism (Pierre, Veronique’s husband, spends all of their money on alcohol and Marie-Adele’s husband Eugene is also an alcoholic).